

steps are necessary to ensure that the 2000 decennial census is conducted fairly and legally.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable William M. Daley, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 832: A bill to extend the commercial space launch damage indemnification provisions of section 70113 of title 49, United States Code (Rept. No. 106-135).

By Mr. BOND, from the Committee on Small Business, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 1568: A bill to provide technical, financial, and procurement assistance to veteran owned small businesses, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-136).

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance:

Report to accompany the bill (S. 1388) to extend the Generalized System of Preferences (Rept. No. 106-137).

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 800: A bill to promote and enhance public safety through the use of 9-1-1 as the universal emergency assistance number, further deployment of wireless 9-1-1 service, support of States in upgrading 9-1-1 capabilities and related functions, encouragement of construction and operation of seamless, ubiquitous, and reliable networks for personal wireless services, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-138).

By Mr. JEFFORDS, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 632: A bill to provide assistance for poison prevention and to stabilize the funding of regional poison control centers.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WARNER, for the Committee on Armed Services:

Charles A. Blanchard, of Arizona, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army.

Carol DiBattiste, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Larry T. Ellis, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

David M. Crocker, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Mark A. Young, 0000

The following named officer for appointment as Chief of Naval Personnel, United States Navy, and appointment to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 601 and 5141:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Norbert R. Ryan, Jr., 0000

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1480. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to assure access of medicare beneficiaries to prescription drug coverage through the SPICE drug benefit program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. ROBB, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1481. A bill to amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 to release and protect the release of tobacco production and marketing information; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. BREAUX):

S. 1482. A bill to amend the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DASCHLE, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1483. A bill to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998 with respect to export controls on high performance computers; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 1484. A bill entitled "Blind Justice Act of 1999"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for Mr. NICKLES (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BOND, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. SMITH of Oregon)):

S. 1485. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to confer United States

citizenship automatically and retroactively on certain foreign-born children adopted by citizens of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GORTON:

S. 1486. A bill to establish a Take Pride in America Program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. KERREY):

S. 1487. A bill to provide for excellence in economic education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GORTON:

S. 1488. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for recommendations of the Secretary of Health and Human Services regarding the placement of automatic external defibrillators in Federal buildings in order to improve survival rates of individuals who experience cardiac arrest in such buildings, and to establish protections from civil liability arising from the emergency use of the devices; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BIDEN:

S. 1489. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the payment to States of pilot allowances for certain veterans eligible for burial in a national cemetery who are buried in cemeteries of such States; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. THOMPSON (for himself and Mr. FRIST):

S. 1490. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for State and local sales taxes in lieu of State and local income taxes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAMS (for himself and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 1491. A bill to authorize a comprehensive program of support for victims of torture abroad; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MACK (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HELMS, and Mr. SHELBY):

S. 1492. A bill to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to focus on price stability in establishing monetary policy to ensure the stable, long-term purchasing power of the currency, to repeal the Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of 1978, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself and Mr. SANTORUM):

S. 1493. A bill to establish a John Heinz Senate Fellowship Program to advance the development of public policy with respect to issues affecting senior citizens; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. SNOWE, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 1494. A bill to ensure that small businesses throughout the United States participate fully in the unfolding electronic commerce revolution through the establishment of an electronic commerce extension program at the National Institutes of Standards and Technology; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DEWINE:

S. 1495. A bill to establish, wherever feasible, guidelines, recommendations, and regulations that promote the regulatory acceptance of new and revised toxicological tests

that protect human and animal health and the environment while reducing, refining, or replacing animal tests and ensuring human safety and product effectiveness; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HOLLINGS (by request):

S. 1496. A bill to authorize activities under the Federal railroad safety laws for fiscal years 2000 through 2003, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 1497. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to take steps to control the growing international problem of tuberculosis; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 1498. A bill to amend chapter 55 of title 5, United States Code, to authorize equal overtime pay provisions for all Federal employees engaged in wildland fire suppression operations; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BROWNBAC (for himself, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. CRAIG):

S. Res. 172. A resolution to establish a special committee of the Senate to address the cultural crisis facing America; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 173. To authorize representation of the Senate Committee on Armed Services in the case of Philip Tinsley III v. Senate Committee on Armed Services; considered and agreed to.

S. Res. 174. To authorize representation of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary in the case of Philip Tinsley III v. Senate Committee on the Judiciary; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BROWNBAC (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. HELMS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. MACK, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Con. Res. 50. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress concerning the continuous repression of freedom of expression and assembly, and of individual human rights, in Iran, as exemplified by the recent repression of the democratic movement of Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1480. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act of assure access of Medicare beneficiaries to prescription drug coverage through the SPICE drug benefit program; to the Committee on Finance.

SENIORS PRESCRIPTION INSURANCE COVERAGE
EQUITY (SPICE) ACT OF 1999

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Seniors Prescrip-

tion Insurance Coverage Equity (SPICE) Act along with my colleague from Oregon, Senator WYDEN. The purpose of this bill is to provide Medicare beneficiaries with access to prescription drug coverage. The program is voluntary and federal assistance will be provided to help pay for the premiums. Senator WYDEN and I believe that this bill is one solution to the lack of prescription drug coverage for America's seniors and we believe that it is a bill we could and should enact this year.

Lack of prescription drug coverage is a serious problem facing our seniors. When Medicare was created in 1965 it was based on the inpatient care system that was prevalent at that time. Today, thirty four years later, drug therapy often allows individuals to stay out of the hospital—but Medicare does not cover drugs. And the lack of coverage means that those over 65 years of age end up paying for half the costs associated with their prescriptions, while the average person under age 65 pays only a third. It also means that seniors are forgoing medication because they cannot afford it.

The SPICE Act creates a voluntary supplemental drug insurance policy that all Medicare eligible individuals can purchase. These policies will be guaranteed issue—no one can be turned down. SPICE eligibility will begin when Medicare eligibility begins. There will be a penalty for late entry, just as there is for those who make a late entry into the Medicare Part B program. The penalty fee for late entry will be waived if the late entry is based on the loss of prior drug coverage from a Medicare + Choice plan or a retiree group health plan.

All seniors will receive some premium support assistance on a sliding scale based on income. Every senior will receive at least 25% premium support. Those below 150% of the federal poverty line will receive 100% premium support. A sliding scale will phase down the premium support from 100% to 25% for those between 150% and 175% of the federal poverty line.

The federal premium support will be used to allow seniors to purchase SPICE policies from private providers, similar to the Medigap program. The policies will all meet a threshold standard developed by the SPICE Board, which includes consumers, state insurance commissioners, and insurance representatives, and will be designed with seniors needs in mind. Medicare+Choice and group health plans which provide drug coverage for Medicare eligible individuals will be able to receive the actuarial value of the drug benefit if their plans meet or exceed the SPICE Board threshold benefit plan.

Seniors will be given a choice of plans. This will ensure competition and help keep the costs down and will allow seniors to choose the plan that best

meets their needs. To provide an idea of the types of choices, plans may offer coverage for different drugs (formularies), copays, deductibles, and caps. The SPICE Board will disseminate information about these choices, much like the Federal Employee Benefit Health Program (FEHBP) does.

Funding sources for the benefit will come from the on-budget surplus, which the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates show to be \$505 billion after the \$792 billion tax cut legislation that is currently in conference. Additional funding may come from implementing the President's FY2000 budget proposal to raise the tobacco tax by 55 cents per pack in addition to enacting the 15 cent tobacco increase already in law one year earlier than originally planned.

America's seniors need help in obtaining prescription drug coverage. SPICE is a doable proposal that can be passed whether or not we are able to move forward on Medicare reform this year.●

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today Senator SNOWE and I are introducing legislation to provide seniors with insurance coverage for prescription drugs. This legislation, the Seniors Prescription Insurance Coverage Equity Act, SPICE, is the only bipartisan, market-based approach to provide seniors with choice and access to coverage that is actually paid for. It will give seniors the same kind of coverage that their member of Congress has.

The key issue for seniors around our nation, when it comes to the issue of prescription drugs, is affordability. Our proposal will assure that each and every senior who voluntarily chooses to enroll in a SPICE plan will have the bargaining power of HMOs and of the large insurers whose job it is to get the best price they can. At least 13 million seniors have no prescription drug coverage at all. Those seniors get penalized twice: they have to pay all their costs, and they pay more because they can't get the negotiated rate that the insurers and HMOs can. This bill will level the playing field for those seniors giving them affordability and access.

We know the kinds of drugs that are coming on the market now can help save lives, better the health status of an older person and, in many instances, save dollars because seniors taking their prescription drugs as they are told to by their doctor will prevent costly hospitalizations and the progression of disease. If we were to create Medicare today from scratch, there would be no questions about including prescription drug coverage. If we want to assure that Medicare beneficiaries stay healthy longer we must provide prescription drug coverage. If we want to be thoughtful, prudent purchasers of health care, we must find a way to assure seniors access to the drugs.